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LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter No. SUP.2-1/5 dated 12 January 1993 (S/25095), I have the honour to transmit herewith for your attention, a letter from His Excellency, Dr. Hussein Abu Salih, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan concerning the aggression of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the Sudanese region of Halaib.

The Republic of the Sudan would like to point out that these continuous aggressive practices pose grave and direct threat to the security and peace in the region. We, therefore, call upon your august Council to shoulder its full responsibilities by withdrawing the Egyptian forces from Halaib, putting an immediate end to the aggressive acts and provocative unwarranted behaviour of the Egyptian forces and to settle the conflict within the framework of the legal norms.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SULIMAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 18 May 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to our notes of 27 December 1992, 7 January 1993 and 11 January 1993 respectively, regarding the aggression by the Arab Republic of Egypt against the Sudanese region of Halayib, we should like to bring the following matters to the attention of the Security Council;

1. At the same time as Sudan is undertaking to resolve the difficulty with the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Halayib triangle through negotiations and peaceful means, the Arab Republic of Egypt is continuing to intensify its military presence in the area and is taking a number of administrative measures to change the identity and reality of the region in violation of the agreement which both countries had reached not to take any measures in the area until such time as an agreement had been reached through bilateral talks. In this connection, we should like to point out, by way of example, the following Egyptian measures:

(a) The Egyptian Minister of Housing paid a number of visits to the Halayib area, after which he announced that 1,036 desert dwellings had been built and that it had been decided to begin immediate implementation of an integrated plan for the development of the region.

(b) On 8 February 1993, the Governor of the Red Sea Province announced a decision to allocate an area of 8,000 square metres at Abu Ramad for the construction of an Egyptian elementary school and the opening of three institutes of Islamic education. Furthermore, on 1 February 1993, the Minister of Housing announced that the Egyptian customs post at Abu Simbel would be transferred to Halayib.

(c) On 2 February 1993, Egypt signed agreements with Germany and Japan for the export of 20,000 tons of manganese from the Halayib area. Agreements were also concluded with Germany and Austria for the export of 50,000 tons of aluminate from the Halayib area, and on 8 November 1992, Egypt invited international tenders to drill for petroleum in the area of the Red Sea and Halayib.

(d) On 19 August 1992, the Egyptian Ministry of Awqaf published a decision to appropriate all the mosques in the Halayib area and sent teams to boost religious awareness in the area. On 13 July 1992, Egypt re-enforced its media presence by means of around-the-clock radio broadcasts to Halayib and by relaying television to it.

(e) The Egyptian authorities in the area have endeavoured to induce the Sudanese citizens to accept Egyptian identity cards linked to ration cards.

(f) Egypt has begun to build roads, permanent settlements, power lines and other services aimed at imposing a new reality.

(g) On 23 April 1993, the Egyptian authorities detained two vehicles in the Halayib region and arrested their occupants, who were Sudanese officials entrusted with carrying out the fourth census in Halayib within the framework of the general population census in all regions of Sudan. They forced them to return south of the 22nd parallel and prevented them from carrying out their national duty. It should be noted that all previous population censuses from the independence of Sudan until the present Egyptian military occupation have included the region of Halayib.

(h) On 1 February 1993, the Egyptian authorities arrested a Sudanese citizen, Imad Awad Ahmad Pasha, a member of the Sudanese Red Crescent, assaulted him and sent him back, thereby preventing him from completing the humanitarian mission for which he had come to the Halayib region.

(i) On 10 May 1993, Egyptian forces stopped Mr. Karar Muhammad Karar, the administrator of the Basharin tribe, and the delegation of local elders and mayors accompanying him. The delegation was making a tour to inform the Basharin tribe of the latest developments.

2. It seems that the Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to resolve the border dispute in the Halayib region militarily, despite the fact that it is clearly a legal dispute. Sudan continues to insist on the necessity of solving this dispute within a legal framework and through peaceful means. Sudan therefore firmly rejects all the measures taken by Egypt in the Halayib area and considers that such measures are illegal and constitute a grave threat to peace and security in the region.

Not content with the aforesaid measures, the Egyptian Government also intensified its provocations and threats of resorting to force, and committed an aggression against the disputed Halayib area and other parts of Sudanese territory, as indicated below:

(a) On 26 April 1993, Sudanese military authorities received a letter from the Egyptian authorities, the text of which read as follows:

> "We are informing you that any move by Sudanese troops north of Muhammad Qawl will be considered as an act of hostility towards Egypt, and we therefore ask you to do what is necessary to prevent any move by Sudanese troops beyond the Muhammad Qawl area."

(b) On 4 May 1993, the Sudanese military authorities received a second letter from the Egyptian authorities, the text of which read as follows:

> "Please note that the move of any Sudanese troops north of Port Sudan is considered as an act which threatens Egypt's national security and that measures will be taken in order to guarantee Egypt's security. We ask you to kindly do what is necessary to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate."

(c) On 6 May 1993, the Sudanese military authorities received from the Egyptian authorities a third letter, the text of which read as follows:

"Recently Sudanese elements in the Halayib triangle and Shalatin area engaged in actions which constituted an escalation of hostility and which can be summarized as follows:

(i) Reinforcements (7 individuals) were sent to the civilian police post at Shalatin.

(ii) Reinforcements (14 individuals) were sent to the civilian police post at Abu Ramad.

(iii) Construction activities were undertaken in Halayib Island; four wooden huts were built.

(iv) Sixty-eight soldiers were sent as reinforcements to the town of Halayib.

These actions constitute an escalation and are unacceptable. Every effort must be made to effect the withdrawal, within 48 hours, of the reinforcements, whether civilian police or military personnel at Halayib, and to put an end to the construction activities in Halayib Island. Otherwise, we will be compelled to take whatever measures are needed to ensure the security of our personnel in the area to deal with this escalation.

(d) On 10 May 1993, Egyptian armed forces came back and again surrounded the Shalatin and Abu Ramad posts.

(e) On 11 May, some Egyptian troops, one company and three military vehicles, moved south of the 22nd parallel.

In view of the foregoing, there is no doubt that Egypt is seeking to settle the question militarily as these letters demonstrate that Egypt is threatening to use force even outside the two disputed areas; this threatens security and stability in the entire region, since it poses the risk of a military confrontation which Sudan wishes to avoid.

It is an established fact that, by acting thus, the Egyptian Government is clearly revealing an obvious contradiction in its position. As you know, Egypt claimed, in its reply to the previous note from the Sudanese Government, that it has a legitimate right to the Halayib region and that it was acting within that context.

The Sudanese Government wishes to recall that it is established beyond a doubt that whoever claims to have a legitimate right must prove this by the legal means provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. Consequently, any attempt to impose a fait accompli by armed force is inadmissible and in no way alters the truth as it has been recorded in Security Council documents since 1958, namely, that there is a border dispute between Egypt and Sudan with regard to the Halayib triangle.

The Sudanese Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm that Egypt must refrain from resorting to threats or to the use of force and must desist from resorting to force against Sudan's security and sovereignty. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principle of good-neighbourliness, the Egyptian Government should state officially that it agrees to seek a settlement of the border dispute between the two countries by legitimate and legal or quasi-legal means, since it does not doubt that right and justice are on its side.

In any event, the Sudan, which has so far been patient and restrained out of respect for the values of brotherliness and good-neighbourliness and out of consideration for the demands of local bilateral security, stressing the advantages of dialogue and peaceful consultation for the settlement of disputes, informs the Security Council that it reserves the right lawfully to defend its territory and sovereignty in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the general principles of international law.

That being so, the Sudan wishes to point out that the incessant acts of hostility which it has reported constitute a grave and direct threat to peace and security in the region, and it therefore requests the Council to assume its responsibilities fully and to make Egypt withdraw all its forces from Halayib and refrain from constantly resorting to threats and aggression and to contain the explosive situation at the military level and to leave the way open for a peaceful settlement within a legal framework.

(Signed) Hussein ABU SALIH
Minister for Foreign Affairs